

REMARKS

This paper is in response to the official action dated September 23, 2002. This response is timely filed, as it is accompanied by a petition for automatic extension of time to file in the first month, and the requisite extension fee.

In the outstanding official action, restriction was required between Group I (claims 7-10, 12-22, and 32-35) and Group II (claims 28-31). An election of species requirement was also raised.

Both the restriction requirement and the election of species requirement are traversed as being incomplete. The official action does not mention pending claims 23-25, which is directed to a method of forming a nozzle and a nozzle plate.

In a telephone conversation conducted between the undersigned and examiner Staicovici on November 22, 2002, the examiner indicated that claims 23-25 were inadvertently omitted from Group I. However, it is submitted that claims 23-25 are properly grouped with claim 31, which recites an apparatus especially adapted for carrying out the method of claim 23.

It is also submitted that independent claim 9 and claims 34 and 35 dependent therefrom should be grouped with claims 23-25 and 31.

During the telephonic interview, it was agreed that claims 9, 23-25, 31, 34, and 35 could be grouped together for restriction purposes. In view thereof, the applicant hereby elects those claims for prosecution on the merits, and non-elected claims 7, 8, 10, 12-22, 28-30, 32 and 33 are being canceled.

Further, applicant hereby elects species F for prosecution on the merits. It is believed that all elected claims 9, 23-25, 31, 34 and 35 read on species F.

Should the examiner wish to discuss the foregoing, or any matter of form in an effort to advance this application toward allowance, he is urged to telephone the undersigned at the indicated number.

Respectfully submitted,

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